

A Recipe for Creating Clouds and Contrails

- 2 cups Ivory Snow Ultra* (powder laundry detergent)
- 1/2 cup water
- Blue construction paper
- Toothpicks, sponge, palm of hand, Q-tip, paintbrush

*Students sensitive to Ivory Snow should wear gloves or not do this activity. Teacher/parent supervision is recommended.

1. Pour Ivory Snow into a bowl, add the water and mix with electric mixer.
2. Lay the construction paper on a flat surface.
3. Using the palm of the hand, toothpicks, etc., apply Ivory Snow mixture to the paper, forming various cloud-shapes.
4. Allow project to dry on a flat surface.
Note: It takes a few hours to dry. As the soap dries, it will lose its grayish tinge and turn bright white.

Special Notes:

If you want to make cumulus clouds, it is easier if you have your mixture a little thicker. You can do this by adding just a little extra Ivory Snow. While many students can use a paintbrush, several of my students found that by using the palm of their hand they created more realistic clouds.

When making contrails, the students found it is easier if the mixture is the original recipe, or you can add a little water. Toothpicks are easy to use in making contrails.

Once the clouds or contrails have dried, you will have a few flakes of the soap that falls off. You will then be able to display your artwork on a bulletin board. Remind students that they are working with soap, so if any gets on their clothes it is easy to wash out.

Encourage students to be creative. Have them draw a plane in the sky before they create their contrail. They can also draw trees, mountains, etc. to help them showcase their clouds.